

## COUNTRY DATA: NEW ZEALAND\*

### INTRODUCTION

The Polynesian Maori reached New Zealand in about A.D. 800. In 1840, their chieftains entered into a compact with Britain, the Treaty of Waitangi, in which they ceded sovereignty to Queen Victoria while retaining territorial rights. In that same year, the British began the first organized colonial settlement. A series of land wars between 1843 and 1872 ended with the defeat of the native peoples. The British colony of New Zealand became an independent dominion in 1907 and supported the UK militarily in both World Wars. New Zealand's full participation in a number of defense alliances lapsed by the 1980s. In recent years, the government has sought to address longstanding Maori grievances<sup>1</sup>.

### GEOGRAPHY

Location	Oceania, islands in the South Pacific Ocean, southeast of Australia
Area	267,710 sq km
Climate	Temperate with sharp regional contrasts
Natural Resources	Natural gas, iron ore, sand, coal, timber, hydropower, gold, limestone
Total Renewable Water Resources	397 cu km (1995)
Freshwater Withdrawal	Total: 2.11 cu km/yr (48%/9%/42%) Per capita: 524 cu m/yr (2000)
Natural Hazards	Earthquakes are common, though usually not severe; volcanic activity
Environmental Issues	Deforestation, soil erosion, native flora and fauna hard-hit by invasive species

### PEOPLE

Population	4,213,418 (July 2010 est)
Ethnic Groups	European 69.8%, Maori 7.9%, Asian 5.7%, Pacific islander 4.4%, other .5%, mixed 7.8%, unspecified 3.8% (2001 census)
Religions	Anglican 14.9%, Roman Catholic 12.4%, Presbyterian 10.9%, Methodist 2.9%, Pentecostal 1.7%, Baptist 1.3%, other Christian 9.4%, other 3.3%, unspecified 17.2%, none 26% (2001 census)
Languages	English (official), Maori (official), Sign Language (official)
Literacy Rate	99%

Major Infectious Diseases	1,400 individuals living with HIV/AIDS (2007 est. )with deaths from HIV/AIDS fewer than 200 (2003 est.)
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	
Type	Parliamentary democracy and a Commonwealth realm* *According to the Freedom House, New Zealand is an electoral democracy. A mixed-member electoral system combines voting in geographic districts with proportional-representation balloting. New Zealand is a member of the Commonwealth, and Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state, represented by a governor-general.
Independence	26 September 1907 (from the UK)
Constitution	Consists of a series of legal documents, including certain acts of the UK and New Zealand parliaments, as well as the Constitution Act 1986, which was the principal formal charter adopted 1 January 1987.
Legal System	Based on English law, with special land legislation and land courts for the Maori; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations
<b>ECONOMY</b>	
Agricultural Products	Dairy products, lamb and mutton, wheat, barley, potatoes, pulses, fruits, vegetables, wool, beef, fish
Industries	Food processing, wood and paper products, textiles, machinery, transportation equipment, banking and insurance, tourism, mining
Import commodities	Machinery and equipment, vehicles and aircraft, petroleum, electronics, textiles, plastics
Import Partners	Australia 18.4%, China 15.09%, US 10.45%, Japan 7.24%, Germany 4.16%, Singapore 4.12% (2009)
Export Commodities	Dairy products, meat, wood and wood products, fish, machinery
Export Partners	Australia 23.36%, US 9.64%, China 9.21%, Japan 7.1%, UK 4.21% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$27,400 (2009 est)
Population below poverty line	N/A
Foreign Aid <sup>ii</sup>	212 million U.S. dollars per year
Corruption <sup>iii</sup>	New Zealand is one of the least corrupt countries in the world. It was ranked first out of 180 countries surveyed in Transparency International's 2008 Corruption Perceptions Index.

\*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

---

<sup>i</sup> Central Intelligence Agency: The World Factbook. Online. Available at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bg.html>

<sup>ii</sup> United Nations Development Program: Human Development Report. Online. Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2009/>

<sup>iii</sup> Freedom House. Online. Available at: <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7563>